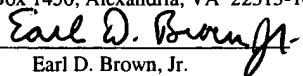


Our File No.: SPLX.P0008

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Earl D. Brown, Jr.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application for:

Steven Teig et al.

Serial No.: 10/043,808

Filing Date: January 11, 2002

For: Simulating Euclidean Wiring
Directions Using Manhattan and
Diagonal Directional Wires

Examiner: Nguyen, Dao H.

Group Art Unit: 2818

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is concurrently filed with the above-entitled Request for
Continued Examination for the above-identified patent application.

The Amendments to the claims begin on page 2.

The Remarks begin on page 7.

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